have no confirmed evidence to substantiate this particular report. The Chinese government have denied the report stating that China does not stand for nuclear weapon proliferation and does not help other countries to develop nuclear weapons. Government keep under constant review all developments having a bearing on India's security.

Soviet pull-out from Afghanistan

122. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made in the planned pull-out of Soviet Troops from Afghanistan; to what extent it has been impeded by Pakistan's support to the Afghan rebels (Mujahidins) during the past three months and what is Government's assessment of the situation relating to the prospects of peace in the Sub-Continent; and

(b) whether there has been any remarkable change in the activities of the rebels and the Pak support thereto since the induction of the new democratically elected Government headed by Mrs. Benazir Bhutto in Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K. K. TEWARI): (a) By 15th February, 1989 all Soviet troops were withdrawn from Afghanistan, in accordance with the terms of the Geneva accords. A political solution alone, to the worked out by the Afghans themselves, taking into account the existing realities, can restore peace and normalcy in Afghanistan and contribute to the reduction of tensions in the region.

(b) No, Sir.

Discussion on Punjab terrorists with Pakistan

123. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the Prime Minister's visit to Islamabad (Pakistan) in connection with SAARC meeting in December last, the Pakistan Prime Minister Mrs. Bhutto assured that effective steps would be taken to prevent any further use of Pakistan territory by Punjab terrorists and supply of arms and training to them through Pakistan; and

(b) if so, in what precise terms the issue relating to prevention of terrorist activities through Pakistan came up and what understanding was reached in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K. K. TEWARI): (a) and (b) During Prime Minister's visit to Islamabad, the Pakistan Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto assured him of her commitment to the policy of non-interference in our internal affairs. It was also decided that the Home Secretaries of the two countries would meet in the first half of 1989 to discuss terrorism and releated issues.

Pakistani Prime Minister's proposal on Kashmir Issue

124. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a reported statement of Pakistani Prime Minister Mrs. Benazir Bhutto, as reported in the Hindustan Times of January 12, 1989, to the effect that a solution of the so called Kashmir issue was necessary for total normalisation of Pak relations with India;

(b) if so, whether the Pak Government has made any proposal towards the solution of the issue;

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) to what extent Prime Minister's visit to Pakistan has helped to clear this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K.K. TEWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and the only issue which remains to be resolved is the vacation of Indian territory under Pakistan's illegal occupation.

(d) Pakistani's Prime Minister has emphasised the importance of Simla Agreement in resolving the outstanding issues in Indo-Pak relations.

Meeting of Indo-Pak Joint Commission

125. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether high level meetings with Pakistan are on the anvil:

(b) when the next meeting of Indo-Pak Joint Commission is likely to be held; and

(c) what specific issues are likely to come up before the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K. K. TEWARI): (a) to (c) During the visit of the Prime Minister to Pakistan in December, 1988, it was decided that the India-Pakistan Joint Commission would meet in the first half of 1989. It will be preceded by several other bilateral meetings including, *inter alia,* meetings between the Defence, Home and Foreign Secretaries of the two countries.

U.S. threat to destroy Libyan Chemical Factory

126. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported threat of US President Reagan on January 3, 1989 to destroy the Libyan Chemical factory which he stated was ready to manufacture a Poisonous Gas for Chemical weapons;

(b) if so, what is Government's information about the capability or otherwise of the facility in question to manufacture gas or chemical weapon; and

(c) what was Government's reaction to the U.S. threat in the context of its potential to disturb world peace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K. K. TEWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has no information on the capability of the facility

(c) The following statement was made by the Government of India's official spokesman on the incident of the shooting of Libyan planes by the United States on 4th January, 1989:

"The incident over the Mediterranean sea which led to the shooting down of two Libyan aircraft by US Navy jets on January 4, 1989 is unfortunate. Such confrontations are dangerous and can only jeopardise the prospects of peace in the region about which the situation has recently become distinctly hopeful."

Attitude of new Government in Pakistan towards Mujahideens in Afghanistan and terrorists in Punjab

127. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any notable change has